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# FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



August 13, 2002

## FLORIDA

**FLORIDA:** Rainfall during July boosted crop growth and development but delayed some hay baling and lowered the quality of some hay. Extreme heat during the month hindered some peanut blooming and affected the growth of some cotton and other crops. Silage harvesting neared the end in some localities during early July. Tobacco harvesting progressed rapidly during July with collection centers at Madison and Live Oak opening late in the month. Cotton condition was rated good to excellent by early August with a few growers reporting a significant amount of squares falling off plants, perhaps due to heavy rains. The frequent rains shortened the spraying interval for some peanuts while some growers irrigated fields to ensure proper soil moisture. Producers contended with tomato spotted wilt virus in some peanut fields. Weed and worm populations escalated rapidly in wetter areas, especially in some hay fields.

**COTTON:** Growers expect to average 706 pounds per acre from 119,000 acres to be picked. This compares with 612 pounds per acre averaged from 124,000 acres harvested last year. Production is expected to total 175,000 bales. Last year's production was 158,000 bales.

**Peanuts:** Producers indicate that 92,000 acres will be dug in 2002, up 10,000 acres from last year. Yield is expected to average

2,600 pounds per acre, down 450 pounds from the 3,050 pounds per acre last year. Production at 239,200,000 pounds is down from the 250,100,000 pounds produced last year. Growers report the crop is in mostly good to excellent condition with 95 percent of the crop pegged by the first week of August.

**SUGARCANE:** Production for both seed and sugar is set at 16,761,000 tons, up 423,000 tons from the 16,338,000 tons produced last year. Yield is expected to average 37 tons per acre versus the 2001-02 crop average of 35.1 tons. Producers expect to harvest 453,000 acres for the 2002-03 season. This compares with 465,000 harvested during the 2001-02 season.

**TOBACCO:** Producers expect to pull 13,440,000 pounds, up 1,740,000 pounds from the 11,700,000 harvested last year. Acreage is set at 4,800 acres, up 300 acres from the 4,500 acres harvested in 2001. Yield is expected to average 2,800 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from the 2,600 pounds per acre for the 2001 crop. Florida producers escaped damage from disease plaguing tobacco in other States.

## UNITED STATES

**COTTON:** All cotton production is forecast at 18.4 million 480-pound bales, down 9 percent from last year's record high production. The yield is expected to average 675 pounds per harvested acre, down 30 pounds from 2001. The reduced production is due to lower acreage and yields, but is partially offset by less abandonment when compared to a year ago. Upland cotton production is forecast at 17.8 million 480-pound bales, 9 percent below 2001. Nationwide, producers expect to harvest 13.1 million acres, 5 percent below last year. Upland cotton harvested area, at 12.8 million acres, is 5 percent less than a year ago. Cotton development progressed near normal during July, with 94 percent of the acreage at or beyond the squaring stage and 73 percent setting bolls by July 28. Above-normal temperatures promoted rapid biological development in the Southeast, Southwest, and lower Mississippi Valley, while below-normal temperatures limited biological development through much of the southern Great Plains. Despite rapid advancement during July, development remained mostly behind normal in the interior Mississippi Valley. Meanwhile, biological development progressed ahead of normal in most areas of the Southeast, with fields squaring and setting bolls much earlier than normal in Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia. Frequent afternoon thunderstorms provided adequate moisture for development through much of the Southeast, although parts of the Atlantic Coastal Plain remained unfavorably dry. In Texas, some fields suffered due to excessive rainfall. Near the end of the month, producers along the Gulf Coast applied defoliant and picked mature fields.

**PEANUTS:** Production is forecast at 4.11 billion pounds, down 4 percent from last year's crop, but 26 percent above 2000. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.43 million acres, 1 percent above the June estimate and up 1 percent from 2001. Yields are expected to average 2,885 pounds, 144 pounds below last year, but up 441 pounds from 2000. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.41 billion pounds, down 5 percent from last year's level. Expected acreage for harvest, at 849,500 acres, is up 6 percent from the previous year. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 2,835 pounds per acre, 300 pounds below 2001. As of July 28, peanut development in Alabama was 9 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average with 84 percent of the acreage rated in fair to good condition. In Georgia, crop development was 2 percentage points ahead of normal, and condition on July 28 was 79 percent fair to good. The peanut crop in South Carolina was rated mostly fair to good.

**SUGARCANE:** Production is forecast at 35.5 million tons, 3 percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 1.02 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2002 crop year, 1 percent less than last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 34.7 tons per acre, 1.1 ton above 2001. Ample rainfall supported rapid vegetative growth of most sugarcane fields along the Gulf Coast during June and July.

**TOBACCO:** Flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 534 million pounds, up 1 percent from the previous forecast but down 8 percent from 2001. Growers plan to harvest 248,800 acres in 2002, up 4 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,144 pounds per acre, up 12 pounds from the July 1 forecast but 288 pounds lower than the previous year. Timely rainfall in North Carolina's eastern coastal region, the State's largest producing area, contributed to the increase from July 1. Dry weather and the tomato spotted wilt virus, particularly in the Carolinas and Georgia, have stressed the crop, causing lower expected yields than last year.

**CORN:** Corn production is forecast at 8.89 billion bushels, down 7 percent from last year and down 10 percent from 2000. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1995. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 125.2 bushels per acre, down 13.0 bushels from last year. Yields are mostly lower than 2001 across much of the United States as wet weather during planting caused delays in the eastern Corn Belt. Also, persistent hot, dry weather has stunted growth and limited yield potential over many areas of the United States. Farmers expect to harvest 71.0 million acres of corn for grain, down 1.08 million acres from June, but up 3 percent from 2001.

**SOYBEANS:** Production is forecast at 2.63 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2001 and 5 percent below 2000. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 36.5 bushels per acre, down 3.1 bushels from 2001. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. Yields are mostly lower than 2001 in the western Corn Belt, central Great plains, Ohio Valley, and Atlantic Coast States. However, higher yields were reported in the Upper and Middle Mississippi Valley and southern Great Plains States. Area planted, at 73.0 million acres, is up slightly from June, but down 1 percent from last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 72.0 million acres, down 1 percent from 2001.

CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of August 1, 2002 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2001	For harvest 2002	2001	Indicated 2002		2001	Indicated 2002
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton	124	119	612	706	<sup>1/</sup>	158	175
Peanuts	82	92	3,050	2,600	Lbs.	250,100	239,200
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>2/</sup>	5.0	6.5	265	275	Cwt	1,325	1,788
Spring <sup>2/</sup>	25.0	25.4	319	283	Cwt	7,970	7,179
Sugarcane	465	453	35.1	37.0	Ton	16,338	16,761
Tobacco, Type 14	4.5	4.8	2,600	2,800	Lbs.	11,700	13,440
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	68,808	71,001	138.2	125.2	Bu.	9,506,840	8,886,009
Cotton, all <sup>4/</sup>	13,827.7	13,112.4	705	675	<sup>1/</sup>	20,302.8	18,439.0
Hay, Alfalfa	23,812	24,139	3.37	3.09	Ton	80,266	74,640
Hay, All Other	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.92	Ton	76,437	77,976
Peanuts for nuts	1,411.9	1,425.5	3,029	2,885	Lbs.	4,276,704	4,112,200
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>2/</sup>	14	13.5	294	272	Cwt	4,115	3,678
Spring <sup>2/</sup>	76.2	77.7	286	280	Cwt	21,814	21,753
Summer <sup>2/</sup>	58.6	60.6	309	307	Cwt	18,110	18,625
Fall <sup>2/</sup>	1,092.5	1,142.1	367	<sup>5/</sup>	Cwt	400,727	<sup>5/</sup>
Rice	3,314	3,227	6,429	6,393	<sup>3/</sup>	213,045	206,304
Sorghum for grain	8,584	7,548	59.9	50.3	Bu.	514,424	379,509
Soybeans for beans	73,000	72,029	39.6	36.5	Bu.	2,890,572	2,628,387
Sugarbeets	1,243.6	1,352.4	20.7	20.4	Ton	25,787	27,601
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	1,028.0	1,022.1	33.6	34.7	Ton	34,587	35,463
Tobacco, All	432.4	435.5	2,293	2,117	Lbs.	991,519	921,829
Tobacco, Type 14	30.6	32.8	2,481	2,074	Lbs.	75,906	68,040
Wheat, all	48,653	47,628	40.2	35.4	Bu.	1,957,643	1,686,306
Winter	31,295	29,764	43.5	38.9	Bu.	1,361,479	1,158,710
Durum	2,789	2,692	30.0	29.5	Bu.	83,556	79,545
Other spring	14,569	15,172	35.2	32.0	Bu.	512,608	448,051

<sup>1/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

<sup>2/</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

<sup>3/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.

<sup>4/</sup> Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

<sup>5/</sup> First forecast in November.